



Transportation Alliance

January 13, 2022

Testimony on SB 208 – *Criminal Law - Assault of a Public Transportation Service Provider – Penalties Judicial Proceedings*

Position: Favorable

The Central Maryland Transportation Alliance supports SB 208 in the hopes that it will help to protect and support the State's transit operators.

Transit operators are essential and dedicated public servants who go out every day to provide critical transportation services to Marylanders across the State. Being in such a public-facing role means operators have daily contact with riders, drivers, and everyone else using our streets, which can put them at a higher risk for attacks. According to the Maryland Transit Administration, the agency has experienced an average of 50 operator assaults a year since 2013.

Current law aims to provide additional protection for first responders, law enforcement officers and firefighters by enforcing an increased penalty for assault. SB 208 would add transit operators to that list. We respectfully encourage a favorable report.